

## Department of Planning and Budget 2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB1502

<b>House of Origin</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
<b>Second House</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Carrico

**3. Committee:** Education and Health

**4. Title:** Public schools; electives on the Hebrew Scriptures/Old Testament and the New Testament.

**5. Summary:** Requires local school boards to offer as an elective in grades nine through 12 with appropriate credits toward graduation a course on the Hebrew Scriptures/Old Testament of the Bible or the New Testament of the Bible or a combined course on both. The bill requires the Board of Education to develop Standards of Learning and curriculum guidelines for such courses. The bill provides that the purpose of such courses is to introduce students to biblical content, characters, poetry, and narratives that are prerequisites to understanding contemporary society and culture, including literature, art, music, mores, oratory, and public policy. The bill prohibits students from being required to use a specific translation of a religious text when taking the courses and provides that such courses shall maintain religious neutrality and shall not endorse, favor, promote, disfavor, or show hostility toward any particular religion or nonreligious perspective.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Item 128.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary. See Item 8.

**7a. Expenditure Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2019	\$0	0	N/A
2020	\$20,000	0	General Fund

**8. Fiscal Implications:** SB1502 requires the Board of Education (Board) to develop Standards of Learning for this course work, which the Board does not do for elective courses. The estimated state cost for the Board to develop such standards is \$20,000. The Department of Education notes that developing Standards of Learning for this elective course may create an expectation that the Board should develop Standards for all elective courses, which could increase future state costs.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Board of Education, Department of Education, local school divisions

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None